

# **Economic Development & Improvement Commission**

**Special Meeting – Thursday May 15, 2008 – 11:30**  
Basement/Ground Level Conference Room, Town Hall

## **MINUTES**

1. Call To Order – Chair Rosania called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.
2. Attendance and Quorum (6 members required)

Members in attendance: Chair Betty Rosania, Doug Sacks, John Adamian, Joan Hughes, Chris Lyons, Tony Homicki, Kate Mullen and Howard Greenblatt.

Members absent: Bill Knapp, Brian Silver, Chris Monroe, Ken Rizzio and Joe Cornelio.

Also in attendance: Bonnie Therrien – Town Manager, Phil Knecht – Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison, Paul Montinieri – Town Council, Peter Gillespie – Economic Development Manager/Town Planner and Denise Bradley – Assistant Planner.

### **3. Old Business**

- a. Strategic Plan Update – Goals, Objectives and Strategies 2008 – Peter Gillespie reported that continued progress is being made in revising the document.
- b. Status Report - Church Street/SDH Streetscape Project – Peter Gillespie reported that the initial projection for completion of the corner treatments was 6 months but noted that the project is currently ahead of schedule.
- c. Preserve America Master Plan Public Hearing May 20 - Peter Gillespie reported that a public forum would be held on Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at the Keeney beginning at 7:00 p.m. He noted that the document has been posted on the town's website and he encouraged EDIC members to attend.
- d. Horse and Carriage Rides – May 10, 11 and 24 – Peter Gillespie reported that there were rides on Mother's Day and noted that they would also be running on May 24<sup>th</sup> for the Memorial Day parade. Mr. Gillespie noted that other dates throughout the year would be targeted.
- e. 1260 Silas Deane Highway – Status Report – Peter Gillespie reported that this application is on the May 21<sup>st</sup> Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission agenda. Denise Bradley noted that the revised plans had already been reviewed and approved by the Design Review Advisory Committee and after IWWA, the application will come before the Planning and Zoning Commission.

### **4. New Business**

- a. Budget 2008/2009 – Bonnie Therrien distributed copies of the final budget and a brief discussion ensued regarding cuts to EDIC related line items.

- b. Keiler Status – Peter Gillespie reported that next year's budget for these services has been reduced to \$15,000. He noted that a discussion would need to take place in which it is determined if Keiler should continue to be used for their services or if it is necessary to also look at using a different firm.
- c. Breakfast Meetings – Peter Gillespie reported that the Chamber of Commerce has several breakfast events planned and that the State of the Town is scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup> at the Country Club beginning at 8:00 a.m.
- d. Business Visitation Program – Peter Gillespie reported that this item would be discussed at the next Marketing Subcommittee meeting.
- f. Shop Local – Peter Gillespie reported that he spoke about this issue at the last Chamber of Commerce meeting and that he would follow up with Jeanne Kelly to discuss the details of their possible participation.
- g. Silas Deane Highway Overlay Zone – Peter Gillespie reported that the draft should be available in a week to ten days and that it would be discussed at the May 21<sup>st</sup> Redevelopment Agency meeting.
- h. Community Video – Peter Gillespie reported that he was continuing to investigate other municipalities experience with the company. He noted that it would not be a simple process and that at this point he was continuing to move forward.
- i. State of the Town Breakfast – The event will be held on May 21<sup>st</sup> at the Country Club beginning at 8:00 a.m.
- j. Redevelopment Forum – The event will be held on June 11<sup>th</sup> at the Silas Deane Middle School Auditorium beginning at 7:00 p.m.

## **5. Reports of the Town Manager -**

Town Manager's Report – Bonnie Therrien reported that she had met with Tom Coccomo to discuss the progress of the Comstock Ferre application.

Town Council Liaison's Report – Paul Montinieri reported of the following:

- The passage of the budget.
- The need to speak with local business about employing energy efficiency practices.
- Core service review.
- Working to secure funding for streetscape and façade improvements in the north end of Wethersfield.

Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison's Report – Phil Knecht reported on the highlights of the May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Tourism Commission Liaison's Report – No report was given.

Redevelopment Agency Liaison's Report – Peter Gillespie discussed the highlights of the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting and noted the upcoming public forum.

Director of Planning and Economic Development's Report – Peter Gillespie reported on the highlights of the monthly report.

6. Chairman's Report – Chair Rosania discussed the possibility of needing a 2<sup>nd</sup> EDIC meeting each month and noted that if there is still interest in a Farmer's Market planning for next year's season would need to commence.

7. Sub-Committee Reports - Marketing and Communications – No report was given.

Financial Strategies – Peter Gillespie reported that there are no pending applications and that he had spoken to and would follow up again with the DECD about reprogramming some project funds.

8. Minutes- Approval of April 10, 2008 meeting minutes – Joan Hughes made a motion to approve the minutes. Howard Greenblatt seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Chris Lyons abstained from voting.

9. Next Meeting – June 12, 2008

10. Correspondence

- a. May 2008 Monthly Report

11. Adjournment